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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,059	04/08/2004	Tomohiro Hamada	6639P022	9641

8791 7590 02/01/2005

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EXAMINER

PAPE, ZACHARY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/821,059

Applicant(s)

HAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/8/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/8/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. In claim 17, the phrase "the edge" lacks antecedent basis. It appears that the phrase should be changed to "an edge".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al (Patent # 5,808,861) in view of Bosy (Patent # 6,394,300). With respect to claim 1, Nakajima et al. teaches an electronic apparatus, comprising: a housing (2); and a cover (365) detachably supported on the housing. Nakajima et al. teaches clamping the cover to the housing via 375 (Column 27, Lines 42-51) instead of using a mechanism and operation portion to hold the cover in place.
4. Bosy teaches the use of a lock mechanism (40) which is covered with the cover (top flat portion of element 34) and which locks the cover in the housing; and an operation portion (34) which allows access to the lock mechanism from the outside of the housing and the cover, in order to unlock the cover from the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lock mechanism of Bosy as an alternate equivalent securing means for the cover of

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Nakajima et al. Use of the lock mechanism of Bosity allows for quick and easy removal of cover without the use of a screwdriver, etc. and is more secure than just being clamped in place.

5. With respect to claim 2, Bosity further teaches that the lock mechanism includes a claw (36, 38) arranged in the cover and a convex portion (42) arranged in the housing, and the claw and the convex portion engage each other in the locked condition.

6. With respect to claim 3, Bosity further teaches that the claw is elastically displaced between an engagement position (Fig 4) where the claw is engaged with the convex portion and an unlocked position (Fig 5) where the claw is released from the convex portion.

7. With respect to claim 4, Bosity further teaches that the operation portion (22) has a hole formed in the cover (Fig 4, As defined from the angled portion of 34 to the flat portion of the claw 36) in order to expose the claw to the outside of the cover and allow the claw to displace to the unlocked position. (The hole from 34 to 36 allows the user to insert a fingertip or other device in order to bed the U shaped member backward and remove member 22).

8. With respect to claim 5, Bosity further teaches that the cover is slidable between a first position (Fig 5 as shown by the shadowed figure), and a second position (As shown in Fig 6) with respect to the housing, and the claw is engaged with the convex portion when the cover is slid from the first position to the second position.

9. With respect to claim 6, Nakajima et al. teaches that the housing includes a storing portion (323) that detachably holds one of a plurality of functional units (361, 353a, etc.), and the cover detachably covers the storing portion.

10. With respect to claim 7, Nakajima et al. teaches an electronic apparatus, comprising: a housing (2) having a keyboard support portion (Fig 30B, 314) arranged on the upper surface thereof; a keyboard (313) detachably mounted to the keyboard support portion (Column 23, Lines 1-2); a cover (365) which detachably covers the upper surface of the housing and having a holding portion (375) which holds a part of the keyboard with the keyboard support portion (Column 32, 34-36). Nakajima et al. teaches clamping the cover to the housing via 375 (Column 27, Lines 42-51) instead of using a mechanism and operation portion to hold the cover in place.

11. Bosy teaches the use of a lock mechanism (36) which is arranged on the cover (22) and which is engaged with the housing (10) to lock the cover on the housing; and an operation portion (34) which allows access to the lock mechanism in order to unlock the cover from the housing from the outside of the housing and the cover. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lock mechanism of Bosy as an alternate equivalent securing means for the cover of Nakajima et al. Use of the lock mechanism of Bosy allows for quick and easy removal of cover without the use of a screwdriver, etc. and is a more secure attachment means than just being clamped in place.

12. With respect to claim 8, Nakajima et al. teaches that the electronic apparatus further comprise; a functional unit (361, 353a, etc.); and a storing portion (323) formed

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in the housing and which holds the functional unit, wherein the cover covers the storing portion.

13. With respect to claim 9, Nakajima et al. teaches that the keyboard support portion (Fig 30B, 314) and the storing portion (323) are located on the upper surface of the housing and next to each other.

14. With respect to claim 10, Nakajima et al. teaches that the holding portion (375) is located between the keyboard support portion (314) and the storing portion (323, as illustrated in Fig 48)

15. With respect to claim 11, Bosy teaches that the lock mechanism includes a claw (36, 38) arranged in the cover and a convex portion (42) arranged in the housing, and the claw and the convex portion are engaged with each other during locking.

16. With respect to claim 12, Bosy teaches that the claw (36, 38) is elastically displaced between an engagement position (Fig 6) where the claw is engaged with the convex portion and an unlocked position (Fig 5 as shown by the shadowed figure) where the claw is released from the convex portion.

17. With respect to claim 13, Bosy further teaches that the operation portion (22) has a hole formed in the cover (Fig 4, As defined from the angled portion of 34 to the flat portion of the claw 36) in order to expose the claw to the outside of the cover and allow the claw to displace the unlocked position. (The hole from 34 to 36 allows the user to insert a fingertip or other device in order to bed the U shaped member backward and remove member 22).

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18. With respect to claim 14, Bosy teaches that the cover is slidable between a first position (Fig 5 as shown by the shadowed figure) and a second position (Fig 6) with respect to the housing, and the claw is engaged with the convex portion when the cover is slid from the first position to the second position.

19. With respect to claim 15, Bosy further teaches that the housing has a plurality of engagement holes (26), and the cover has a plurality of engagement projections (24) corresponding to the engagement holes so that the engagement projections (24) are coupled to the engagement holes (26) when the cover is slid from the first position (Fig 5 as shown by the shadowed figure) to the second position (Fig 6), thereby holding the cover at a predetermined position with respect to the housing. (Column 2, Lines 54 – Column 3, Line 9)

20. With respect to claim 16, Bosy further teaches that the lock mechanism (36) is interposed between the cover (22) and the housing (10).

21. With respect to claim 17, Nakajima et al. further teaches that the keyboard has a tongue portion (311) that extends from the edge to the upper surface of the housing, and the cover holds the tongue portion with the housing (Column 27, Lines 45-46, 50-51).

22. With respect to claim 18, Nakajima et al. teaches that the cover (365) is detachably fixed to the housing at a position different from that of the lock mechanism through a screw (Fig 48, 364 – Column 26, Lines 63-67).

23. With respect to claim 19 Nakajima et al. teaches the use of an electronic apparatus, comprising: a first member (323); and a second member (365) which is

connected to the first member. Nakajima et al. teaches clamping the cover to the housing via 375 (Column 27, Lines 42-51) instead of using a mechanism and operation portion to hold the cover in place.

24. Bosy teaches the use of a lock mechanism (40) which locks the second member (22) such that a connection state between the first member and the second member is held and which is covered with the first member and the second member; and an operation portion (34) which allows access to the lock mechanism in order to unlock the second member (22) from the outside of the first member and the second member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the lock mechanism of Bosy as an alternate equivalent securing means for the cover of Nakajima et al. Use of the lock mechanism of Bosy allows for quick and easy removal of cover without the use of a screwdriver, etc. and is a more secure attachment means than just being clamped in place.

25. With respect to claim 20, Bosy further teaches that the lock mechanism (40) includes a claw (36) arranged in the second member (22) and a convex portion (42) arranged in the first member (10), and the claw and the convex portion engage each other in the lock condition. (Column 2, Line 54 – Column 3, Line 9)

26. With respect to claim 21, Bosy further teaches that the claw is elastically displaced between an engagement position where the claw is engaged with the convex portion (As illustrated in Fig 6) and an unlocked position (Fig 5 as shown by the shadowed figure) where the claw is released from the convex portion.

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27. With respect to claim 22, Bony further teaches that the operation portion (34) has a hole formed in the second member (Fig 4, As defined from the angled portion of 34 to the flat portion of the claw 36) in order to expose the claw to the outside of the second member and to allow the claw to displace to the unlocked position. (The hole from 34 to 36 allows the user to insert a fingertip or other device in order to bend the U shaped member backward and remove member 22).

Additional Art of Interest

28. Examiner also cites patent # 6,288,892 as additional art of interest.

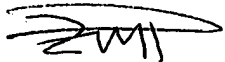
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



ZMP



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